and when our eligible carriers evince interest to operate to the concerned countries.

(d) India has signed only one Bilateral Air Services Agreement with France on 16.7.1947, which has been amended from time to time during bilateral air services consultations, last of which was held in February, 2005.

Poor maintenance of private helicopters/aircrafts

2805.SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of frequent crashes of private helicopters/aircrafts in the recent times;

(b) whether it is a fact that poor maintenance is the major cause of these crashes; and

(c) whether Government will take suitable measures to prevent crashes due to poor maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. In only two accidents from 2003 till date, maintenance of helicopter was the countributory reason.

(c) The DGCA ensures, on a continuous basis, strict compliance of safety norms by all air operators, including private operators by way of safety audits. Besides, spot checks on maintenance activities are also carried out by the DGCA. DGCA also keeps updating the Civil Aviation Requirements/Circulars to sterngthen aviation safety aspect.

Permission to China for use of Indian space

2806. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has approached Government of India for allowing Indian airspace for flying its aircrafts over India;

(b) whether it is a fact that about 600 flights of China were to fly over Indian airspace;